

Christopher Moore, first proud owner of the new WW T-shirt

# Shop early with WW

Supporting Willits Weekly is a great gift – to the paper, your friends and the community!

Willits Weekly is proud to offer two great holiday gift options to the community this year: gift subscription certificates and WW T-shirts are easy gift-giving options.

Subscriptions are a great way for locals to get the weekly paper via first-class mail right at home in their mailbox, or waiting for them at their Post Office box. They're also a fun way for those who've moved away to stay connected to our community. Currently we have a number of out-of-county recipients who really enjoy getting a taste of their hometown with each edition, including readers in Hawaii, Texas, Maine, Elk Grove, Monterey, Berkeley and Piedmont, to name a few.

Subscriptions can be purchased for six months (\$40) and one year (\$75). Gift certificates come in a custom-made, tissue-stuffed newspaper gift bag with

handles, for a wonderful presentation.

Crisp black Willits Weekly T-shirts are hot off the press, and ready to head home with new owners! Sizes range from medium to 2X. The shirts feature our signature WW circle logo on the back and "I ♥ Willits Weekly" on the front. They are \$20 each, and come in festive packaging for ease in gift-giving.

To order or purchase shirts or certificates, contact us at 972-7047 or willitsweekly@gmail.com or come by the Winter Willits Farmers Market at the Little Lake Grange on Thursdays from 3 to 5:30 pm. If you let us know which back issues you're looking for (check www.willitsweekly.com for complete .pdf versions of our back issues), we can be sure to have those for you at the market, too. — Maureen Moore

# Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

New Location Soon!

**Headquarters**  
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Hours by appointment  
156 S. Main Street | Willits, CA 95490  
NEW: 91 South Main Street

Left: Aarne Bielefeldt's world champion "Octo" beard styling at the 2013 World Beard and Moustache Championships in Germany.

Below: Aarne Bielefeldt, competitor #2 in the "full beard freestyle" competition, which was the last of 18 categories that were judged at the world championships that night.



## World champion beardster

Aarne Bielefeldt of Willits



Willits area resident Aarne Bielefeldt, star of the reality TV show "Whisker Wars," has won a long-desired prize. On November 2, Bielefeldt was awarded first place in the "full beard freestyle" category in the 2013 World Beard and Moustache Championships held in Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany.

The competition was hosted by the Association of German Beard Clubs. Bielefeldt described national beard competitions in Germany as being as hard or harder to win than the world championships – "they are very strict, how they are organized and judged," he said. So, holding the world championships in Germany this year meant the competition was exceptionally tough: "Some of the best people who do this live in Germany," Bielefeldt said.

The German freestylers who came in second and third place behind Bielefeldt were both "very difficult-to-beat gentlemen," he said. Second-place winner Elmar Weisser is a professional freestyler who has won every championship he has entered since 2005, after winning second place in 2003. The World Beard and Moustache Championships are held every two years.

Weisser's sister, a professional stylist, helps him style his beard, while Bielefeldt does all his own styling work, with the help of heavy-duty hair spray. It takes about five hours to style his beard in his winning "Octo" style: six larger and two smaller curls.

The next challenge for Bielefeldt is the European championship in May 2014 in Switzerland, where he may decide to compete in the "full beard natural" category. Bielefeldt won first place in that category in the 2010 Beard Team USA National Beard and Moustache Championships in Bend, Oregon.

"Some of us who compete in more than one category try to outguess each other about what category we will be in," Bielefeldt said. "My beard is unusually long, and I've had pretty good success in those 'full beard' competitions, although that is less of an art form than the freestyle."

Originally from Europe, Bielefeldt now lives outside Willits with his wife, Rita, in their solar-powered house. He has been growing his beard all his life. Watch a "Whisker Wars" profile of Bielefeldt here: [http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xuy95a\\_whisker-wars-profile-aarne-bielefeldt\\_fun](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xuy95a_whisker-wars-profile-aarne-bielefeldt_fun)

**Brewed Awakening**  
will be open  
**EXTRA EARLY**  
on Black Friday!

See HOW early in next week's issue of Willits Weekly!

Drive Thru Coffee | Bagels Muffins & Fruit

Now both businesses are located back at 1600 S. Main St. in Willits!

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## Measure I

To the Editor:

As most residents of the Little Lake Fire Protection District are probably aware of by now, Measure I failed by a very small percentage. We knew that going before the taxpayers would not be popular with 100 percent of our population, as no one wants additional taxes. Our board and staff exhausted other options such as grants, donations, fundraising events and the simple act of trying to save funds from our operating budget before considering a tax measure.

We considered remodeling of the current building and leasing other buildings, but the costs necessary to bring these buildings to an acceptable code standard that is required by law was unacceptable. Additionally the leasing of a building does not promote long-term fiscal responsibility.

The board of directors of the district has spent long and numerous hours trying to come up with an acceptable resolution that would appeal to a majority of our citizens. They did succeed getting a majority approval, but that majority fell short of the necessary 2/3s vote.

Based on the comments received back, we failed on three counts. Count 1 was the creation of a new tax in a time where people have seen enough new taxes; Count 2 was the creation of the dreaded State CalFire Fee that has impacted our taxpayers in the State Responsibility Area (SRA); and Count 3, was the failure to get the 75 percent of the registered voters in our district who didn't vote, to actually vote.

Anyway we received your message, and we will once again start looking at alternatives other than the creation of a special tax. Although Measure I did fail, the necessity of building a new replacement fire station continues.

The board and members of the Little Lake Fire Protection District will continue to plan for your future, when we will have to eventually house firefighters on a 24-hour shift. We will continue to plan for the expansion of your department as we receive more calls for service. We will continue to plan and construct a building that will withstand the next expected earthquake, and that will be available to our citizens as an area of safe refuge. But, we will now have to plan for increased construction costs, increased inflationary costs and increasing interest rates as we work forward.

In the meantime, your friends, neighbors and relatives who are volunteer firefighters will continue to operate out of this facility as long as it remains standing. We will continue to deal with leaky roofs and strategically placed buckets. We will continue to try to manage our utility costs in this very inefficient building. We will continue to provide provisions to those visitors that are mobility-bound.

Although the members of your fire department are disappointed by the outcome, they will continue to respond to your emergencies as requested.

Carl Magann, fire chief, LFPD

The Rules: **LETTERS**

Letters & Commentaries: Email letters to willitsweekly@gmail.com. Letters from area residents, focusing on Willits issues, activities, events and people, have priority. Typed letters can be sent to Willits Weekly, P.O. Box 1698, Willits, CA 95490, but email is preferred.

Letters & Commentaries must have a name, address and phone number, although only the author's name and city of residence will be published. No anonymous letters will be published.

**Willits Weekly**

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# What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from readers

## November 13 City Council meeting

To the Editor:

I am surprised to see Caltrans here at the Willits City Council tonight. I would think they would be a little embarrassed by now.

Across the entire state of California, citizens are well aware how dysfunctional, inflated, aggressive, undemocratic, deceptive, needlessly destructive and, most likely, corrupt Caltrans has become. Investigations and lawsuits have been launched, and some are still in process. Exactly who is in control of Caltrans, if anyone, is apparently unclear. The fiasco with the "Willits Bypass" is just another case in point.

Since beginning construction, Caltrans and the contractors have repeatedly disregarded federal laws and the regulations controlling their permits. They started with the complete disregard for the Federal Bird Migration Act and were stopped by Fish and Wildlife only after being notified by watchful citizens.

They then continued to disregard wetlands protection measures during the wet season. They proceeded without permission to use city streets in contradiction to their contractual agreement and, when the city refused to give them blanket permission, they threatened to sue.

Most recently, they unlawfully obliterated a protected and known Native American heritage site in the valley – as a result of refusing to cooperate with the local tribe.

And now it has become clear that they do not have the funding for the required mitigation plan and have indicated that they will revisit their specifications, which probably means they intend to back out of their promises and obligations with respect to their Army Corps 404 permit.

Of course, none of this should come as a surprise to anyone with a pulse and who is paying attention these days, since it is obvious now that we no longer live in a lawful democracy. Our Constitution has been ripped to shreds and thrown in the toilet.

The country is now being run by a bunch of thugs, who have no regard for constitutional rights, no consideration for the majority of citizens, nor for the environment, nor even for their own future.

Caltrans is a good example of what happens when people lose control of their government. This criticism does not, however, stop with Caltrans. It applies even more so to the failure of our government. And that starts at the top

with Governor Brown. It also applies to our congressional representative, Jared Huffman, as well as our state representatives, Wes Chesbro and even Noreen Evans – although I acknowledge that Noreen at least put up a pretense of resistance for a while.

It applies especially to our local representatives who have championed the Caltrans bypass, in spite of all available information: most of all supervisor John Pinches, as well as several of the Willits City Council members over the years. You all should be ashamed of yourselves for letting Caltrans disregard the law and lie to the public.

Meanwhile, the so-called "protesters" are threatened with criminal punishment. In my view, they should instead be celebrated as heroes. They are doing what they have to: responding to the demise of our nation, as well as all of mankind – protecting their interests, their environment, and their future. And, in so doing, they are also standing up for our constitutional rights against an agency that is a big part of the assault on our democracy. Those protesters should actually get medals of honor.

David Partch, Willits

## Thank You!

To the Editor:

A great big thank you to everyone who helped make our recent "Willits On Stage" Variety Show such a success. This includes all the performers who generously shared their wonderful talents to help make a very special evening for everyone, all the community volunteers, Willits High School, the Willits High School Peace Club, and all the fantastic sponsors of this event:

Alfred Kerr, DDS; Computer Works Unlimited; DripWorks; Earth's Treasures; East Hill Veterinary Clinic; Friends of the Eel River Watershed; J.D. Redhouse; Les Schwab Tire Center; Loose Caboose Cafe; Neary and O'Brien, Attorneys at Law; North Valley Bank; 101 Trailer and RV; Savings Bank of Mendocino County; Scott's Tank; SHN Engineering; Sparetime Supply; Ted Dawson, MD; Willits Furniture Center, and Willits Redwood Company.

And, of course, thank you to everyone who came to the show to participate in this event and support this fundraiser for Willits Community Services and Food Bank.

Everyone had such a great time, we are hoping to present another variety show this spring. Be sure to watch for it!

Thanks again for your support.

Jim Marill, executive director,  
Willits Community Services and Food Bank

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**Willits Weekly**

EST. 2013

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## In the Stars...

**ARIES**  
Mar 21 - Apr 20  
Aries, you have a lot on your mind, but only one concern demands your undivided attention. Find a quiet space to think things through and trust your gut feelings.

**TAURUS**  
Apr 21 - May 21  
Taurus, friendships may weaken if you don't keep up your end of the relationship. Make an effort to get together with your friends and take the initiative with planning.

**GEMINI**  
May 22 - Jun 2  
Gemini, your approach to a problem is not working. It could be time to take an entirely new approach and see if this produces results. Be patient with this new approach.

**CANCER**  
Jun 22 - Jul 22  
Don't be surprised if a busy week finds you dog tired come the weekend, Cancer. Use the time off to recharge your batteries on this well-deserved break.

**LEO**  
Jul 23 - Aug 23  
Few things can hold your interest this week, Leo. Although friends try, they can't seem to keep you focused on any one thing. Expect to jump from task to task this week.

**VIRGO**  
Aug 24 - Sept 22  
Virgo, an unexpected consequence appears this week and you are caught completely off guard. Don't let others see your surprise. You must simply roll with the punches.

**LIBRA**  
Sept 23 - Oct 23  
Libra, a spark of ingenuity hits you out of the blue and you know just how to put that inspiration to good use. Set your plan in motion as soon as you are able.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct 24 - Nov 22  
Scorpio, after a few hectic weeks at home and at the office, now is the ideal time for a vacation. Cast all responsibilities aside and enjoy some rest and relaxation.

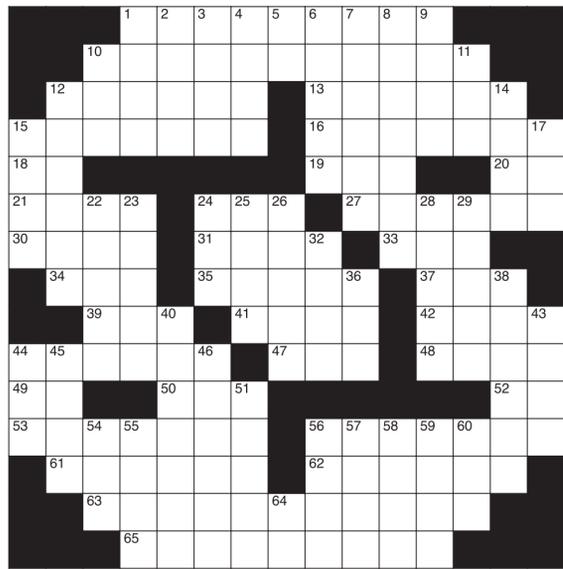
**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23 - Dec 21  
Sagittarius, you may prefer to keep certain things to yourself no matter how strongly others insist you share. Don't succumb to pressure to share those things you prefer remain private.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec 22 - Jan 20  
Several new opportunities are coming your way, Capricorn. You just need to sort through all of them and figure out just what you want to do in the next few weeks.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21 - Feb 18  
The new season has you feeling refreshed and ready for new beginnings, Aquarius. Make the most of this new lease on life and encourage others to join you.

**PISCES**  
Feb 19 - Mar 20  
Pisces, maintain your focus around the office, as you will have to juggle multiple tasks in the week ahead.

## Crossword Puzzle

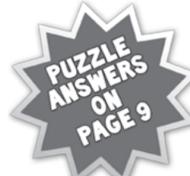


**CLUES ACROSS**

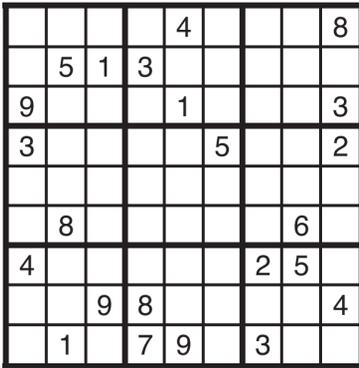
- Bawled out
- Former "Today" host
- Shape anew
- Skulls
- Renting dwellers
- Choose to refrain
- Anno Domini
- Old French small coin
- Carry out
- Dashes
- Expresses suspicion
- Followed the trail of
- The highest point of something
- Geological times
- Cartilaginous structure
- Hill (Celtic)
- Bura
- Center of a wheel
- de plume
- String, lima or green
- Greek goddess of discord
- Move back and forth
- Britain's Sandhurst (abbr.)
- Comedian Carvey
- Public promotion
- Federal residential mortgage insurer
- Location of White House
- Gives an answer
- Populates
- Fires a weapon
- More tense
- An outstanding achievement
- Annotations

**CLUES DOWN**

- Buddhist monk of Tibet
- Egyptian sun god
- Soft roe
- Garden planting areas
- Atomic #89
- Soul and calypso songs
- Large European flatfish
- Expunction
- Impression in a surface
- PBS filmmaker Burns
- Former OSS
- Draft an edict
- Assistant
- Proclamation upon finishing
- Slight head bend
- Asian ethnic hill people
- SE Asian goat member
- Aware of the latest trends
- Person of Arabia
- Industrial process to produce ammonia
- Expressed pleasure
- The plural of crus
- Old Thailand
- Ribonucleic acid
- One who assembles books
- Cosa Nostra member
- Pouclike structures
- Violent action
- of March
- Slum area of a city
- Valuable, useful possession
- Philemon (Biblical abbr.)
- Shaped bread
- Fruits of the gourd family
- Copyread
- Double curve
- Photographs (slang)
- Side sheltered from the wind
- Atomic #86



## Sudoku



How To Sudoku:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a Sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## The rest of LoBuck\$

From Page 1



"The decision to sell or close about a third of our stores was extremely difficult," said Gregory L. Sandeno, president of C&K Market, in a press release issued Tuesday. "We appreciate the dedication and hard work of all of our employees and are saddened that some cannot continue with us. We anticipate we will eliminate approximately 20 percent of our positions, as a result of selling or closing stores and restructuring on the corporate side." Rick Thomas of Redwood Enterprises in Santa Rosa, who is the manager of the Evergreen Shopping Center, confirmed the LoBuck\$ building was not owned by C&K Market, but was sold off in 2004.

According to www.loopnet.com, a details-for-paid-members-only internet site that lists commercial real estate for sale, the 1718 South Main Street property, built in 1990, was put up for sale in October, for \$6 million.

## The rest of Water

From Page 1

Anderson said the storm forming that night was smaller than expected. The Farmer's Almanac called for some showers early in December, with more precipitation in late December and early January, he added.

"What rain we get will not end up in the reservoir," said Councilwoman Madge Strong. Councilman Larry Stranske praised the city for being "ahead of the curve." "I think it is good, because it makes an awareness for the people."

City Hall will publish legal notices in newspapers explaining the policy.

Water bills will be mailed with a notice also.

Anderson reported the water plant did see a reduction in water use earlier this year. Phase 1 of the city's water emergency asked for voluntary cutbacks at the tap and in the yard.

Phase II reaffirms the earlier call to conserve water. Boosting the emergency to Phase III would occur if water storage in the city reservoirs is less than 260 acre feet in February, city ordinances state.

Water levels were about 467 acre feet at the beginning of the week.

# Give Thanks

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# A day to give thanks

Willits Weekly wants to know what YOU are thankful for!

Next week in our Thanksgiving issue, to be published on Wednesday, November 27, we are once again looking to the community to send in photos like those in our Father's Day, Back to School and Halloween editions. This time, we are asking you to show us what YOU are thankful for this holiday season.

Your sister? Low cholesterol? "Grandma's Boy" on DVD? Brewers yeast? Send your photos to willitsweekly@gmail.com, post to our Facebook wall, or text 972-7047 showing us what you are grateful for this holiday season.

Please also include a caption for the photo, completing the sentence: "[your name] is thankful for [what's in the photo]."

We will try and print as many as we can in our next issue, to help spread the feelings of gratitude!

## The rest of Turkey Toss

From Page 1

pounds of salt and 100 pies.

All the goods were taken to the Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp, where three shifts of inmates work to cook the meal.

Making and serving the meal is something the crew looks forward to each year (along with posing for the Turkey Toss photo op of course!)

"We take pride in our work!" said the inmates. "It's nice to see the excitement on the guests' faces when they exclaim that it tastes just like a homemade meal!"

A group of around 10 inmates will be accompanied to the dinner on Thanksgiving Day by four officers from Chamberlain as well

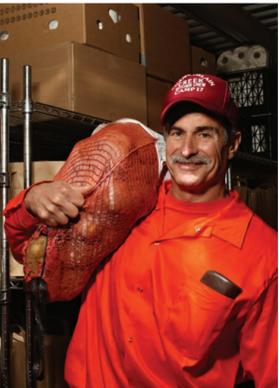
as CalFire.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the free meal from 11 am to 3 pm at the William F. Harrah Senior Center at 1501 Baechtel Road.

"We are ending the dinner at 3 instead of 4 this year," noted WCS Executive Director Jim Marill. "We want to encourage everyone to come and eat together in the cozy environment with all the other community members. Take-out will be available only for homebound individuals."

Last year over 500 happy diners attended the Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

Questions and info: 459-3333.



Above: James Olea carries out a sack of potatoes. Photo by Maureen Moore

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Friday: 5:15 & 8:30  
Sat-Tues: 11am, 2:00, 5:15 & 8:30  
Wed-Thurs: 11am, 2:15, 5:05 & 8:15  
THOR: THE DARK WORLD (PG-13) 2hrs  
Friday: 5:30 & 8:15  
Sat-Tues: 12, 2:45, 5:30 & 8:15  
CAPTAIN PHILLIPS (PG-13) 2hrs 14mins  
Friday: 8:00 & 8:45  
Sat-Tues: 1:00, 6:00 & 8:45  
LAST VEGAS (PG-13) 1hr 45mins  
Sat-Tues: 8:45pm  
FROZEN in 3D & 2D (PG) 1hr 45mins  
Wed-Thurs: (3D) 12:00 & 2:30 (2D) 5:30 & 8:00  
12 YEARS A SLAVE (R) 2hrs 14mins  
Wed-Thurs: 12:15, 3:00, 5:45 & 8:30  
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**Thursday, November 21**

**BRONCO:** Celebration of Accomplishments: will include interactive displays, resources to share, and data fact sheets on a variety of topics including truancy, school safety, substance abuse prevention, mental health, school climate and early childhood behavior. 9am to noon at the Willits Community Center, 111 East Commercial Street. More info: call Pat Sanborn at 459-5314, ext. 1109.

**Annual Souper Luncheon and Bazaar:** Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School St. Bazaar features holiday crafts for sale: 10 am to 2 pm. Soup Luncheon features Clam Chowder, Turkey Sweet Potato, Butternut Squash and rolls, pies, coffee and tea: 11:30 am to 1:20 pm, for \$7 adults, \$3.50 children. Pie and coffee only: \$3.50. Info: 459-2855.

**Now & Then Films presents: "Bringing It Home":** A documentary film about industrial hemp. 7 pm at the Little Lake Grange 291 School Street. "Industrial hemp offers a host of innovative solutions for our troubled world - from reducing global deforestation and malnutrition to combating climate change with healthy, energy-efficient buildings. Hemp is a non-psychoactive, pesticide-free crop that can be harvested for healthier food, clothing and shelter here in the U.S. and around the world. It has the potential to replace 25,000 chemical, petroleum and synthetic-based products in our everyday lives with natural, healthier products that don't cost us the earth or our health." Suggested Donation of \$5-10. Info: 459-6362.

**"Eleemosynary":** The final weekend for this play written by award-winning playwright Lee Blessing and directed by Joe Dowling. "Eleemosynary" focuses on the family dynamics in the lives of three generations of women: Dorothea (played by Anna Wilson); Artie (played by Mary Burns) and Echo (played by Tara Logan). "Eleemosynary" plays Thursday through

**WHS Boosters Club Winter Fashion Show**

The Willits High School Boosters Club's second "Winter Fashion Show" is set for Saturday, December 7 at 6:30 pm at the Willits Community Center. The show will benefit two Boosters scholarships: one for an athlete and one for an arts student.

Fashions from local boutiques and merchants will be featured, from: Off the Cuff, Tiger Lily's, Carhart, Buttercups, Monkey Wrench and J.D. Redhouse.

Organizer Donna Rice says there will be 40 high school students – boys as well as girls – modeling fashions, with 30 younger models wearing kids' clothes. Margaret Bender will be the MC, reading notes about the outfits as the models show off their attire.

"Last year, it was my daughter Jaclyn's idea to start the show," Rice said, "and so we just did it, and even with very little prep time we actually made over \$2,000. So we decided we wanted to keep doing it. It's fun if you have enough help."

The WHS Boosters Club is doing well this year, with lots of good, energetic members, Rice said. "We have a whole decorating committee," she said, which will adorn the

**Seeking actors for 'Idiots'**

The Willits Community Theatre is holding auditions for its February 2014 production of "Flaming Idiots," by Tom Rooney. This is a comedy about two guys who start a restaurant without knowing anything about the restaurant business. In order to attract customers, they arrange to fake a mafia hit in the restaurant, but the fake hit goes sideways into the realm of humor.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, November 23 at 1 pm, at the WCT Playhouse, located at 37 West Van Lane, just one block west of Mazahar on Main Street.

For more information call the director, Damian Sebouhian at 599-5621.

**Free train rides with Santa**

Roots of Motive Power presents the annual "Holiday Express" Christmas Party on Saturday, December 7 at the Roots facility on Commercial Street. Features free train rides for kids of all ages, Santa Claus, Christmas trees, singing, carolers and refreshments.



**Guitar for the world**

The Willits Community Theatre Guest Artist series presents classical guitarists Ryan Ayers and Giacomo Fiore on Friday, December 6 at 7 pm. A night of fingerstyle and classical music from around the world, including original compositions and timeless classics.

The evening will also showcase an instrument built by local classical guitar maker Greg Byers. \$15. Tickets at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, at the door the night of the show, by phone at 459-0895 (with a credit card), or online at brownpapertickets.com/event/501699.

**What's Happening Around Town**

Things to do, see and enjoy in and around Willits

Sunday through November 24. 7 pm on Thursdays; 8 pm on Fridays and Saturdays; 2 pm on Sundays. Tickets can be purchased in person at Goods' Shoppe, 56 South Main Street, or by calling WCT at 459-0895 to reserve by credit card.

**Shanachie Pub:** Solo coastal guitarist Steven Bates, 3rd Thursday of every month. 6 pm, no cover. 50 South Main Street. "When playing acoustic Bates delivers a fast-paced strumming technique that has a rock and roll vibe unto itself." Visit www.myspace.com/stevenbatesmusician

**Friday, November 22**

**Little Lake Fire Protection District Blood Drive:** noon to 4 pm at the Donor Coach parked at the Fire Department, 74 East Commercial Street. "Your donation saves up to three lives! Please come well-hydrated and nourished." To schedule your appointment, visit www.bloodheroes.com, click "Donate blood," and enter sponsor code "WillitsFire." For more info, contact Rana Sadiq at 707-280-2563 or rsadiq@bloodcenters.org.

**"Eleemosynary":** Willits Community Theatre, 8 pm; see Thursday, November 21.

**Shanachie Pub:** Willits Power Equipment presents: Congo Sanchez, "the backbeat of the Washington, D.C., party scene, one of the city's most adept instrumentalists, and the favored sideman and producer for dance bands and world music ensembles alike." Visit: https://soundcloud.com/congosanchez. Willits Power Equipment will be raffling off numerous prizes throughout the night. 9 pm. \$8 cover. 50 South Main Street.

**Saturday, November 23**

**Bake Sale for Dave Dethman:** A benefit bake sale in front of ER Energy, next to Safeway, organized by friends and family, to raise money for local Dave Dethman, who is in critical condition due to a logging accident. 10 am to 4 pm. Donations welcome; also see donation jars in stores around town.

**Work Day Weekend for Grange School of Agricultural Arts:** Today, 10 am to 5 pm, rain or shine, at the site of the new Grange farm school at Ridgewood Ranch. Skilled and unskilled help needed. Bring gloves and tools, if you have them. Please drive slow on the ranch. Contact director Antonia Partridge at (707) 272-1395 or



Tanner Heiken empties his piggy bank in support of the bake sale for Dave Dethman

farmdirector@californiagrance.org or RSVP (drop-in volunteers welcome, too). More info at http://californiagrance.org/agschool/mission.html.

**Auditions for Willits Community Theatre:** for "Flaming Idiots," a contemporary fast-paced farce by Tom Rooney, directed by Damian Sebouhian. WCT is looking for five males from ages 20 to 40, one male between 60 and 70, and two females between 20 and 40. Rehearsals begin mid-December. 1 pm at Willits Community Theatre Playhouse, 37 West Van Lane. Info or script: call Sebouhian at 599-5621.

**Willits Center for the Arts Member Appreciation Night:** Members and those who would like to be members are invited to "come out and enjoy the benefits of being a member and supporting the arts in Willits." Featuring "great organic food, with both vegan and gluten-free choices." Barra wines will be pouring some of their best reds and whites; also beer and water. Live entertainment with audience participation with Emandal Chorale, African dance, and the Willits Drum Circle. Also choreopoetry by Mimi Cézanne. General meeting starts at 6:30 pm, come hear all the exciting changes coming. "Hint, think café with wine and tappas, walls to rent to artist to sell their work, live theater in the great room..." Not a member yet? You can join at the door: \$35 individual annual membership; \$25 for students and seniors, and \$50 for a family membership. Info: 459-1726 or check www.willitscenterforthearts.org.

**Shanachie Pub:** The Gin Jars, "pre-WWII Hokum Blues & Jazz, with a taste of the Medicine shows and vaudeville of old." 8 pm. No cover. Visit http://www.reverbnation.com/theGINjars. 50 South Main Street.

**"Eleemosynary":** Willits Community Theatre, 8 pm; see Thursday, November 21.

**Sunday, November 24**

**Little Lake Grange Pancake Breakfast:** 8 to 11 am, at 291 School Street. Choose Hank's Famous Buttermilk or Sourdough Multigrain Pancakes, Beeler's bacon, organic eggs made to order, real butter, juice, organic coffee or tea. \$7; \$6 for seniors; \$4 for children under 12. Sides of organic yogurt, fresh fruit in season, Amish maple syrup upon request.

**"Eleemosynary":** Closing performance, 2 pm; Willits Community Theatre; see Thursday, November 21.

**Monday, November 25**

**Willits Frontier Twirlers:** Beginner's classes in basic and mainstream square dance at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street, from 6:45 to 8 pm, then dancing until 9 pm, with professional caller Lawrence Johnstone, who will teach and call. Every Monday night; classes are free for beginners. Info: Emmy Good at 367-7475.

**Tuesday, November 26**

**Tightwad Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre:** All 2D movies that are in their second week are \$5 on Tuesdays at the Noyo Theatre for all ages, all showings. This week's "Tightwad" movies: "Thor" (2D) "Captain Phillips," and "Last Vegas." 57 East Commercial Street. 459-6660.

**"Confronting the Controversies:** Biblical perspectives on tough issues": The community is invited to this series of Tuesday night talks (through December 3) on issues such as euthanasia, evolution, death penalty, separation of church and state, and prayer in schools and abortion. Willits United Methodist Church, 286 School Street. Soup dinner at 5:30 pm; talks from 6 to 7:30 pm. Please RSVP: 459-2855.



**Thursday, November 28**

**24th Annual Willits Community Thanksgiving Dinner:** from 11 am to 3 pm at the Harrah Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road. "Come give thanks and celebrate this holiday with your community." No charge; anyone may eat for free, but donations are gladly accepted and will benefit Willits Community Services and Food Bank. Food Donors include: 101 Drive-in, Sparetime Supply, and individual contributions. Dinner prepared by Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp, and served by community

**Ongoing Events:**

**Farmers Market at Little Lake Grange:** Winter market at Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street. Fall produce (cauliflower, broccoli, potatoes, lettuce and more) from area farmers, plus live music, flowers, crafts, baked goods, dinner and more. Markets will continue all winter from 3 to 5:30 pm.

**Willits Photography Club Annual Show:** 12th annual show by members of the Willits Photography Club at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Dedicated to Ray Hansen, and including several images of Hansen's from Monument Valley. Other photographers include: Dave Smith, Dorothy Asbury, Bruce Haanstra, and Erin Creekmur. Show runs through November 30. Gallery is open Thursday and Friday from 4 to 7 pm and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 pm.

**Willits Community Drum Circle:** 7 to 10 pm at the Willits Center for the Arts, 71 East Commercial Street. Every 2nd and 4th Fridays. Free. Everyone is welcome. Info: 459-4932

**Open Mic at Shanachie Pub:** Every Wednesday at 8:40 pm. Sign-ups start at 3 pm. 50 South Main Street.

**Brooktrails Lodge Winter Schedule:** every Thursday night at 8 pm: "Dream Capsule Entertainment," featuring local musicians and talent; Happy Hour, and Ladies' Night specials. Every Friday night: Open Mic, with drink specials and prizes. Info: Shawntee Wirth at dreamcapsuleindustries@gmail.com or 459-6792.

**Free Community Karate Classes** in Willits on Tuesday and Thursday nights, at Willits Body Works Gym & Martial Arts Center, 1511 South Main Street. Tuesdays, start time 7 pm, for ages 10 years old and above. Thursdays, start time 6 pm, for ages 5 to 9 years old, and 7 pm for ages 10 years old and above. Sensei Mike Tobin, Kyoshi, instructing with Sensei Trinidad Sanchez. Through Sheriffs Activities League; info: 468-4288.

**Save the Date:**

**Holiday Baking Party,** December 3, Little Lake Grange

**Santa Photos with Maureen Moore,** December 6 at J.D. Redhouse

**Holiday Express,** free steam train rides with Santa, Roots of Motive Power, December 7

**Santa Trains Start,** Skunk Train Depot, December 7

**Studio Joy 1 Year Anniversary Black Light Zumba Glow Party,** December 7

**Grange Farm School Work Days,** December 7-8 and December 14-15.

**Holiday Craft Fair,** Willits Community Center, December 13, 15 & 16

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15  
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**Holiday Crafts Fair**

The 27th annual Holiday Crafts Fair, at the Willits Community Center, is expanded to three days this year. The crafts fair will open Friday, December 13 (noon to 7 pm), Saturday, December 14 (10 am to 6 pm) and Sunday, December 15 (10 am to 4 pm).

In addition to fine arts and crafts for sale by nearly 30 artists and crafters, the fair features live music, and delicious food and beverages provided by the Willits Charter School. A benefit for the Willits Center for the Arts. Info: 459-4792.

**Holiday Baking Party**

Little Lake Grange Women's Auxiliary presents a Holiday Baking Party, Tuesday, December 3, from 5 to 8 pm at the Little Lake Grange kitchen, 291 School Street.

Bring a copy of your favorite family recipes to share, or ideas for low-sugar or gluten-free options. "We will trade varieties of cookies with each other once baked.

Everything baked in the Grange's commercial kitchen is legal to be sold or served to the public.

Please bring all ingredients you want to use, or call Annie for organic eggs and butter at good prices: 459-6382. \$3 suggested kitchen use fee.

RSVP early for this 'limited space' kitchen event: 459-6362.



**TOY RUN TIME**

This year's event honors a fallen friend and continues to help kids in the Willits area this holiday season

The public is cordially welcome and encouraged to attend the party at the Little Lake Grange after the 21st annual Willits Toy Run, set for Sunday, December 1, rain or shine. Admission to the party is one unwrapped toy: the Toy Run is a benefit for the Willits Rotary Children's Christmas program.

The motorcycle run – dedicated this year to Willits biker Gary Laferty who passed away earlier this month – starts off at the Evergreen Shopping Center at noon. After driving through town, the bikers finish at the Little Lake Grange, 291 School Street, to party from noon to 3 pm.

Dinner features tasty homemade hot dishes made by Rotary Club members plus a tri tip BBQ. "The BBQ – done right there at the Grange by Toy Run volunteers – is new this year," said organizer Bear Kamoroff. "We hit the jackpot with that."

Ray & the Reveleers play live music for dancing, and Lions Club members pour at the no-host bar. The annual raffle has "very nice and very valuable" prizes from area stores this year, Kamoroff said. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 30 tickets for \$20. For more information, email HOG@bellsprings.com or call B.B. Kamoroff at 459-6372.



Above: Steve Shepherd drives Santa and Mrs. Claus on the lead bike, followed by Kat and Jerry Harris and Richard Venturi.

Photo by Maureen Moore

Below: Gary Laferty on his bike.



**Santa Trains**

The Skunk Train's special Christmas Trains start Saturday, December 7 at the Willits Depot: 90-minute round-trip train rides, including a visit from Santa and his elves, music, cocoa and cookies. Departures at 3:30 pm, 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm, depending on day. All guests encouraged to wear pajamas! Tickets: \$35 for adults; \$25 for kids (2 to 12). Scheduled every day from December 7 through December 23. Info: 964-6371 or www.skunktrain.com. December 7 trip and one of the December 14 trips out of Willits are already sold out!



**Staged reading of 'King Lear' at Willits Community Theatre**

William Shakespeare's great tragedy tells the story of a king who abandons his crown, yet wishes to continue to be treated like a king. It doesn't work out so well for him. With Lanny Cotler as Lear, and a cadre of Willits' finest actors in the ensemble cast, this staged reading is directed by Mike A'Dair and will play on Wednesday, December 11 at 7 pm and Sunday, December 15 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. Info: 459-0895.

# Classifieds & More

COLUMN | Relationships



## The Three Choices Around Conflicts

Last month I had the honor to be the guest speaker at the North County Women in Business Network meeting in Willits, organized by our wonderful Chamber of Commerce.

I used the opportunity to reflect on my coaching work and my focus on conflict resolution in relationships, teaching people how to handle conflict with more ease.

When I was preparing my speech, I gained more clarity regarding the three choices we have when we are experiencing a conflict with another person, and what the implications are. In this month's column I will present a summary of my latest discoveries.

In my practice, I encourage my clients to learn to embrace conflicts instead of being afraid or in denial, because I believe that conflict can be a doorway to the next level of intimacy. It can be used to enhance our personal growth, mutual understanding, creativity, and development of our relationships. I encourage people to choose consciously which issues to bring up and which ones to let go. I call this making your first choice.

The next significant choices come right after that, if you have chosen to address the issue. Will you follow the common "power struggle" path where no one can "win," but both parties involved end up feeling more disconnected, hurt and frustrated than before?

Or as a third choice, will you choose path number two, which will lead to deeper mutual understanding, feeling more connected than before, and finding solutions? Choosing path number two is not easy for most of us, because it brings us to an inner edge that we will have to cross, if we want to stay on this path.

Despite our disagreements, we will have to stay curious and available to one another. Our brains will naturally want to slip back into old patterns of defensiveness or attack mode around conflicts, which is part of our primal survival instinct, as neuroscience has proven now.

But luckily, we also have a secondary system working for us, which helps us make conscious and appropriate decisions. Once we understand this phenomenon, it is easier for us to access that secondary system.

Let me explain more about the differences between path one and path two. On path number one, the main question is: "Who is right and who is wrong?" (meaning I am right and you are wrong). Path one is "I"-centered, often you against me. On path number two, the main questions are: "What does our relationship need?" "What do I need?" and "What does my partner need?" On path two, it is about "We" as true partners.

As you can see, each path's questions point to either "my way or the highway" or "let's work this out for the greater good." The communication styles are very different.

On path one you will find the toxic communication styles that I have discussed in a previous column, such as blaming, name calling, criticism, defensiveness, and shutting down. Each party is struggling for power over the other. Often there is a lot of drama.

On path two, each person is far less defensive and is able to talk about what is really going on. They share their needs, fears, disappointments, and dreams. They are able to stay open to one another, listening and asking questions. If they get triggered during the discussion, they can take a break in order to calm themselves down.

Choosing path two will ensure that the dialogue will continue, because the goal is to find a solution or at least acknowledge each other's differences in needs and perspective. The principle interest is to share power and empower each other. The partners know that not only will they as individuals profit, their relationship will profit and grow, too.

I chose a long time ago to practice path two and explore my options there. I am sharing this with you so you become aware that when in conflict with someone you too have these choices. Until next month....

Doris Wier is a certified life and relationship coach who works and lives in Willits. She coaches individuals, couples and teachers, and offers Explore-Shops on conflict resolution in partnerships. For more information on the process, call 456-9246, or check [www.embraceconflicts.com](http://www.embraceconflicts.com) and [www.facebook.com/doriswier](http://www.facebook.com/doriswier).

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Position available for a registered veterinary technician. Please bring resume to the Willits Pet Care Center at 90 South Street.

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## Puzzle Answers From Page 4

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Ad copy for changes can be sent to: [WPBAdCopy@gmail.com](mailto:WPBAdCopy@gmail.com)

Wright and Project Manager Mauricio Serrano to address Caltrans' permit issues with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Serrano said bids on mitigation work had been opened, but Caltrans rejected all three bids, saying they were too high. The low bid was from DeSilva Gates at \$39.33 million, three times higher than Caltrans' expected bid price of \$13.1 million. Two other bids came in at \$47.4 million and \$48 million.

Serrano said Caltrans is working with regulators to devise a plan so mitigation work does not stop.

Serrano and Wright both said they have not heard about the Army Corps or other agencies pulling permits. "They have not stated that they will," Wright said.

Wright added bidders on the mitigation work said the scope of the work was too big and too hard to bond. "It was very hard to bid a project that long," he said. The bid summary document describes the "total number of working days" as "2,000."

Laurie Monarres, north branch chief of the Army Corps Northern California division, appeared on a November 7 news report on the Bay Area ABC news station, saying: "At this point [Caltrans] is not in compliance with their permit conditions"; and "We're trying to give them every opportunity before suspending the permit, but it's approaching that point, now."

J.D. Hardesty, Army Corps public affairs chief, told Willits Weekly the Army Corps was "currently reviewing Caltrans noncompliance issues," but there was "no specific timeline for this review to be completed."

Councilwoman Madge Strong pressed the two Caltrans officials about a letter of violation from the Army Corps of Engineers.

"They asked us to address five or six different items," Mauricio said.

For the project's fill-dirt needs, the fate of trees atop Oil Well Hill about four miles north of Willits remains uncertain.

Strong said she and many other people in the community feel the old Apache Mill site is a better spot to dig fill dirt, because it is already disturbed.

But a move to clear the Oil Well Hill borrow site could still be made.

Wright said Caltrans agrees that the mill site is better. But as the contractor works to iron out its permits, both sites need to be pursued.

"There is so much uncertainty," Wright said. "We have to hope for the best and plan for the worst."

Bypass supporter Randi Covin spoke to city council members during public comment time. "Stop obstructing them, and maybe they will have better luck meeting deadlines," Covin said.

Willits resident David Partch said he could not tell who was in control of the project. "Caltrans is a good example of when people lose control of their government," Partch said.

Ron Moorhead, Chamber of Commerce president, weighed in on the bypass. He said he spoke as a private citizen.

He shared the words of one man who, like others in the valley have lived there for generations. "It is about time that we get this damn thing done...get 'er done' is what he told me," Moorhead said.

## Williamson Act revision approved

A truncated board of supervisors voted unanimously, 3-0, to approve adjustments to the county's Williamson Act program again.

Approving the measure at last week's board meeting were supervisors Dan Hamburg, John McCowen and Dan Gjerde. Supervisors John Pinches and Carre Brown did not vote on the measure due to stated conflicts of interest. They both have Williamson Act contracts.

The Williamson Act allows landowners who have demonstrated they are using their land for agricultural production to pay sharply reduced property taxes on that land.

In the wake of the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009, the state Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 1265, which reduced the term of the Williamson Act from 10 to nine years, in exchange for increasing the taxes landowners will pay by 10 percent.

AB1265 is slated to sunset in 2016 and thereafter the Williamson Act will be defunct, unless the legislature sees fit to renew it. — Mike A'Dair

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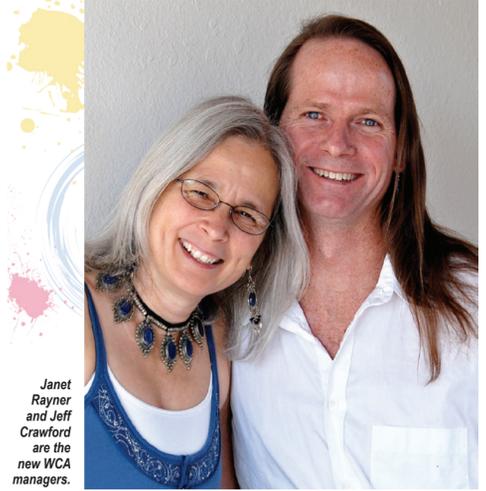
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Janet Rayner and Jeff Crawford are the new WCA managers.

The new managers of the Willits Center for the Arts, husband-and-wife team Janet Rayner and Jeff Crawford, are determined to make the WCA an "even more vital" part of Willits than it is now.

Rayner and Crawford both served terms on the Arts Commission formerly in charge of the arts center, so they have experience with WCA tasks like maintenance, office and fiscal work, and organizing new members and volunteers.

With management staff handling these routine duties now, Rayner hopes there will be more opportunity for board members to allow "the dreams of the art center to bloom and blossom and come to fruition."

Assistant volunteer coordinator Nancy Reed will also help "improve our volunteer base and coordinate volunteers for events, shows and work parties at the center," Rayner said.

"There were a lot of ideas when the arts commission first came together," she said, but it was hard for arts commissioners overwhelmed by ongoing tasks to realize those dreams.

Willits community members are already talking about how to draw visitors to Willits after the bypass is completed, and Rayner says that supporting and promoting the arts can help make that happen. "A lot of towns make themselves a place to go because of the arts," she said. "We have a lot of good artists in the Willits area, artists who are very, very hot."

At present, the center hosts a monthly art exhibit,

including "Art Under 20" in May for high school students and "Art in the Middle" in February for middle-school students. The annual Photo Club exhibit is currently showing at WCA through November 30, and the annual WCA members art show is set for March 2014.

WCA also hosts weekly dance classes (Frontier Twirlers on Mondays and African dance taught by Fanny Parkin-Diallo on Thursdays), a drum circle hosted by Lil McFadden (2nd and 4th Fridays), Emandal Chorale rehearsals, a life drawing class (Thursdays, from 1 to 4 pm), and the Photo Club meetings (second Saturday of the month).

The WCA is still working to become an official nonprofit, and still looking for new board members for that nonprofit. "We need a viable board, with people who can work together well, and share the vision of what the art center can be," Rayner said. "business people, community leaders, and people with experience in fundraising, events and grant-writing are welcome."

Rayner also urges current Art Center members to take advantage of their membership benefits. The WCA website, [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org), has been newly redesigned by Willits sculptor and graphics illustrator Morgan Rex. WCA members – not just artists, but business owners, too – can have their own free page in the member directory.

Those interested in becoming new members or renewing their membership should consider attending the annual Members Appreciation Night this weekend on Saturday, September 23, 6:30 to 9 pm. This is a members-only event, but sign-ups at the door are welcome. The event features refreshments and entertainment; see Calendar for more details. A general meeting of members, and potential new board members, is set for 6:30 to 7 pm.

WCA memberships are \$35; \$25 for seniors/students; and \$50 for families.

Info: call 459-1726, email [willitscenterforthearts@gmail.com](mailto:willitscenterforthearts@gmail.com) or check [www.willitscenterforthearts.org](http://www.willitscenterforthearts.org).

## New managers for the Willits Center for the Arts

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## City OKs bridge replacement planning deal

The rest of  
PAGE | From Page 1

The Willits City Council last week unanimously approved a deal between the city and Mendocino County Department of Transportation to begin planning for replacement of an East Hill Road bridge.

When the county rebuilds its bridge on Davis Creek, about 2.5 miles from the city limits on East Hill Road, the city will pay the bill for its waterline that crosses with the bridge.

"The county is building their Davis Creek bridge," City Engineer Thomas Mannatt said. "We need to pay the cost of moving our utility."

For drivers, crossing Davis Creek can be iffy — the road does not allow drivers to see oncoming traffic easily.

The new bridge will be about 70 feet downstream from the current span. In documents, the county stated that in 2010 the bridge was found to be structurally deficient due to shortcomings in load-carrying capacity, deck width, and the approach to the bridge.

The county nominated the bridge for funding with the federal-aid Highway Bridge Program.

"The construction is not proposed to begin until 2015 or 2016; however, design work should begin next year, making it necessary to have this agreement in place as soon as possible. Estimates for engineering design and construction are forthcoming. Resolutions for these items will be presented at future council meetings," Mannatt's report stated.

Willits reports to the county if something during construction needs attention.

"We do our inspection and go to the county if we see something wrong," Mannatt said. "We are trying to work with the county and develop an agreement with a single engineering group."

odor. The problem was due to weather conditions and an outdated carbon filtration system. City staff recommends amending the contract with WWE [Waterworks Engineers] to include analysis of three design options to improve taste and odor filtration."

"Activated carbon is a nightmare for electrical components," head of Willits water operations J.C. England said, "so it will be an injection system versus powder."

### Tidbits and reports

**City Manager:** The city continues interviews for a financial director. City Manager Adrienne Moore said 12 interviews have been booked over two days.

**Police Chief:** No major issues to report on the streets of Willits last week. Chief Gerry Gonzalez estimated about five disorderly conduct calls and ongoing issues with transients. "Call us if you have got issues," said Gonzalez.

He said convict work crews recently mowed the railroad tracks. The convicts' work can be seen if you look north from the Skunk Train depot towards the MDI Forest Products log yard.

**Planning & Building:** Crews from Granite Construction have begun paving work at the new hospital, taking advantage of recent good weather. Building Inspector John Sherman said the city's planning staff, himself and part-timer Alan Falleri, cannot meet the needs of the community. "They are at my door — pounding at my door for more planning time," Sherman said.

**MCOG:** Mendocino County Council of Governments ranked Railroad Avenue corridor funding at ninth priority in the county

"It was disappointing to say the least, but we are going to see what we can do to move ahead," Mayor Holly Madrigal said.

### Public Works and Engineering

Council members approved more than \$35,000 to support ongoing work on a makeover of the city water treatment plant.

The money approved last week goes to Waterworks Engineers' contract with the city, and will pay for electrical engineering and a proposal to line new concrete-bottomed ponds from top to bottom.

"We want to get the wetness out of there so the sludge will dry and can be spread on the forest floor," City Engineer Mannatt said.

In a written report to the council, Mannatt described the situation: "This past summer, the city received many complaints of bad taste and

Revit-ED: The city Revitalization and Economic Development Committee wants to support businesses and keep an orderly look with signs, Madrigal said. Councilman Larry Stranske just reopened Kimberly's in downtown: "That is going to be one fiasco when we take over Main Street. It is going to be a madhouse, and you are going to dodge [signs] when you walk up and down Main Street," Stranske said.

Post-bypass Willits: "We have three years and the freeway goes around us, and we have to do more than planning," Stranske said.

"I think this should ultimately come up in the budgeting process," Councilman Bruce Burton said. "Otherwise all we are going to do is talk about it."

## Final elections results Neary overtakes Harper in school board race

The final official results of the November 5 election, released November 14, show one change from the initial results reported the day after the election. Incumbent Chris Neary, not incumbent Bob Harper, has won the third seat up for election on the Willits school board.

Initial results showed Harper narrowly leading, with 675 votes to Neary's 672 votes, but the final count had Neary ahead with 1,034 votes to Harper's 1,015 votes.

Challenger Laurie Harris still came in first in the school board race, with 1,240 votes, and incumbent Cynthia Cami came in second, with 1,200 votes.

Final results show Measure 1, the Little Lake Fire Protection fire tax measure, falling short of the 2/3s approval it needed to pass, with 956 "yes" votes and 617 "no" votes.

In final results, the three Brooktrails board incumbents still won the three seats up for election: Tony Orth with 308 votes, George Skezas with 270 votes, and Rick Williams with 268 votes. Challenger Dave Paland received 232

votes, and challenger Gino Zalunardo received 157 votes. There were 110 write-in votes. Ginger Pohelson, who'd previously served a term on the Brooktrails board, had launched a late campaign as a write-in candidate.

Turnout countywide was very low, with only 24.99 percent of registered voters — or 11,046 of 44,197 registered voters — casting a vote.

— Jennifer Poole

# Community News

Heartwarming stories & local tidbits

RECIPE | Holiday Table

## Easy Green Beans

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, this tasty side dish is a easy accompaniment to turkey and potatoes or just a quick way to cook veggies any night of the week

- 1 pound fresh green beans
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- Salt and pepper to taste

Heat a skillet on high heat and melt butter.

Snap the ends off of the beans and rinse with water. While the beans are still damp, carefully toss into hot skillet; be careful of the steam and sizzle.

Occasionally shake the skillet or stir with a spoon or spatula until beans become a bright green color — usually no longer than 2 to 3 minutes. Do not overcook; you want them to remain crunchy and bright, not limp and soggy.

Toss in salt, pepper and almonds. Turn off burner, letting residual heat toast the almond slivers and finish the beans. Serve immediately.

RECIPE | Holiday Table

## Potatoes & Parsley

Bored with regular mashed potatoes? Herbs and skins make these a delish dish

- 1 pound small potatoes (Not russets, fingerlings are great)
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 bunch fresh parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cut potatoes into quarters or larger bite-size pieces, and cook in boiling water until fork-tender.

Drain and transfer to bowl. Rinse and roughly chop fresh parsley leaves (do not use thick stems.)

Toss parsley on hot potatoes, and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Melt butter and drizzle over potatoes. Toss to combine.



Above: Foundation president Ross Liberty, at left, gives checks to Cody Mason and Diego Sanchez. Photo by Sherry Glavich

## Willits men get scholarships to police academy

The Mendocino Public Safety Foundation has made the first loans — to two Willits men — in its new program to help local candidates attend police academy.

The \$7,000 "scholarship/loans" cover tuition, uniform, equipment and expenses and will be forgiven in full if the candidate works for at least three years as a police officer or sheriff's deputy in Mendocino County.

Cody Mason and Diego Sanchez, both of Willits, are the first two recipients of the scholarship/loans and will begin police academy at Santa Rosa Junior College in January. Both are prospective sheriff's deputies.

The scholarship/loans were conceived by Ukiah police chief Chris Dewey as a way to help hire and keep local peace officers. Retention of officers and deputies in Mendocino County has been a major problem because of higher salaries offered in other parts of California.

"This funding is very important to law enforcement," says Dewey. "It helps us keep police officers and deputies local. This funding allows our local candidates with strong ties to our community the opportunity to attend a police academy."

The Mendocino Public Safety Foundation is a

501(c)(3) charity established in 2011 to channel local donations to assist area police chiefs and sheriff. It has purchased police dogs and a tactical robot for local law enforcement, using donations from more than 200 local residents and businesses.

The foundation is funded by local donations and will be launching a fundraising drive to support the scholarship/loans. "Donations are essential to helping us keep local candidates here in the county," said Dewey.

The Mendocino Public Safety Foundation is chaired by Jim Eddie of Potter Valley, a former longtime county supervisor. Foundation president is local businessman Ross Liberty.

Tax-deductible donations for the scholarship program or for general support can be sent to Mendocino Public Safety Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Ukiah, CA 96582. More information about the foundation and its accomplishments, and about how to become an individual, family, or business member, can be found at www.protectmendocino.org.

— Courtesy Mendocino Public Safety Foundation

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## County employees' health premiums to rise

Despite pleas from county employees, supervisors have voted unanimously to increase the bi-weekly premium of county employees by 3 percent. The premium for an employee-only (without coverage for a spouse or child) will increase \$2.21, rising from \$73.83 to \$76.04 each pay period.

The premium for the employee, his spouse and child will go from \$225.99 to \$232.77 each pay period, an increase of \$6.78.

The board voted to increase the premiums after receiving a report from Peter McNamara, senior vice president of Keenan Associates, consultant for the county's employee health plan.

McNamara said the total costs for the county health plan were estimated to increase by 17 percent in 2014 over 2013 costs.

McNamara said health care costs always increase, no matter what, and the average increase over the past 10 years was 8.9 percent.

In that context, he argued, an increase of only 3 to 5 percent was good for employees, since it would be less than the average increase.

Supervisor John Pinches asked if the county would be better off discontinuing its employee health plan and telling its employees to seek their own coverage through the ACA.

McNamara responded with just one word: "Maybe." However, he added, "The law does not allow you, as a large employer, to give employees money and then tell them to go to the ACA," he said.

"But if you were to completely shut down your health coverage, if you just said, 'We're out of it. We're not doing this anymore. We're done.' and you told your employees, 'You're on your own.' I am not sure what would happen to you," he added. "I can tell you, you would be one of the few large employers in the country doing that. No one else is doing that, I can tell you that."

Aaron Burton, field representative with Local 1021, the largest labor union representing county employees, urged supervisors not to approve the premium hike, warning many county employees were already hard-pressed financially.

"I see more and more county employees having to take a second job," he said.

Dave Eberly, president of the local chapter of Local 1021, told the board the financial health of the employees' health care system is currently good, and a premium hike was not warranted.

"The logically defensible recommendation would be no increase," Eberly said.

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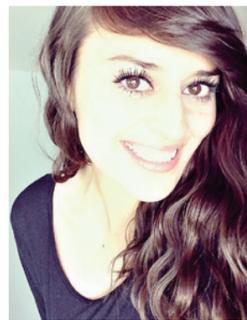
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**Devina Cash**



Willits High School senior Devina Cash is running for the title of 2014 Miss Mendocino. She takes honors and advanced placement classes at WHS and is also enjoying taking dance and art classes at Mendocino College. She hopes to become a teacher. Her Miss Mendocino platform is "Mentoring Children in Their Early Years," and she already enjoys volunteering in Mrs. Recina's Kindergarten class - where she herself was once a student. She also enjoys helping her little sister, Jaeva, with homework and spending time with her family. Winning the title will help Cash continue her involvement with youth and will help fund her continued education, as she hopes to attend Harvard or San Diego State in the fall. People or businesses interested in sponsoring Cash can contact her at devinacash@willitsunified.com or by calling 972-7288.

**Miss Mendocino Candidates**  
 Devina Cash and Kassy Aldaco try for 2014 title



Kassy Aldaco is a full-time student at Mendocino College. She works as a caretaker for three beautiful children, and is also an employee at the Loose Caboose Cafe. She is running on the platform of "Diabetes Awareness for Kids, K-12," and it's her goal and dream to become a pediatrician. "I want to help make a change and contribute to decreasing the rate of diabetes in our youth, Aldaco said. "Awareness and action are essential in the fight against diabetes." If you would like to sponsor Aldaco and help her make a positive change in our community, please call her at 707-260-4709. Aldaco hopes to see everyone at the Miss Mendocino pageant on February 1, 2014 at 7 pm, at Ukiah High School, located at 1000 Low Gap Road in Ukiah.

**Kassy Aldaco**

**Congratulations to the St. Anthony's  
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 November 16, 2013



In alphabetical order: Hailee Torres Baumeister, Eduardo Lllamas Calderon, Mark Anthony Cardona, Patricia Carillo, Rosita Carillo, Celia Chavez, Omar Chavez, Francisco Abel Chavez, Charles Cliburn, Giovanni Cliburn, Kristan Frost, Seth Frost, Marissa Gutierrez, Christian Jara, Lynette Juarez, Melissa Loya, Isaac Luna, Damian Manriquez, Megan Nava, Myra Nava, Amanda Nunez, Aldo Perez Reyes and Cassandra Villalobos

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